# **Claim Amendments:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A bioactive artificial sintered composition for supporting bone cell activity, said composition consisting essentially of:
  - a stabilized <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate and hydroxyapatite in a ratio of at least 50:50

    <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate:hydroxyapatite, wherein the stabilized <u>alpha</u>

    tricalcium phosphate is stabilized with a stabilizing entity selected from the group consisting of silicon entities, aluminum entities, barium entities, titanium entities, germanium entities, chromium entities, vanadium entities, niobium entities, boron entities and mixtures thereof;

wherein said composition is bioactive to support osteoblastic bone growth and to support extracellular resorption of said composition by osteoclasts.

#### 2. to 11. – Cancelled

12. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said composition is insoluble in physiological fluids, said physiological fluids having a pH of approximately 6.4 to 7.3.

# 13. to 22. - Cancelled

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, where said composition is provided as a microporous polycrystalline structure.

### 24. to 25. - Cancelled

26. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of rounded granules with a lateral dimension of about 0.5  $\mu$ m to 1  $\mu$ m.

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### 27. to 37. - Cancelled

- 38. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein said stabilizing entity is silicon.
  - 39. to 46. Cancelled.
- 47. (Previously Presented) The bioactive artificial sintered composition of claim 1, wherein said ratio is in a range of 50:50 to 80:20.
- 48. (Previously Presented) The bioactive artificial sintered composition of claim 1, wherein said ratio is at least 666:333.
- 49. (Previously Presented) The bioactive artificial sintered composition of claim 48, wherein said ratio is in a range of 666:333 to 80:20.
- 50. (Currently Amended) A bone replacement composition comprising <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate and hydroxyapatite in a ratio of at least 666:333 <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate to hydroxyapatite, wherein the <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate is stabilized with a stabilizing entity selected from the group consisting of silicon entities, aluminum entities, barium entities, titanium entities, germanium entities, chromium entities, vanadium entities, niobium entities, boron entities and mixtures thereof.
- 51. (Previously Presented) The bone replacement composition of claim 50, wherein the stabilizing entity includes silicon entities.
- 52. (Previously Presented) The bone replacement composition of claim 50, wherein the ratio is 666:333 to 80:20.
- 53. (Currently Amended) The bone replacement composition of claim 50, wherein the composition consists essentially of the stabilized <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate and the hydroxyapatite.

# 54. (Cancelled)

- 55. (Currently Amended) A bioactive artificial sintered composition for supporting bone cell activity, the composition comprising:
  - stabilized <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate and hydroxyapatite in a ratio of at least 666:333

    <u>alpha</u> tricalcium phosphate to hydroxyapatite, wherein the stabilized <u>alpha</u>

    tricalcium phosphate is stabilized with a stabilizing entity selected from the group
    consisting of silicon, aluminum, barium, titanium, germanium, chromium,
    vanadium, niobium, boron, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the composition is insoluble in physiological fluids of pH 6.4 to 7.3; wherein the composition is bioactive to support osteoblastic bone growth and to support extracellular resorption of the composition by osteoclasts.

- 56. (Previously Presented) An implantable calcified bone matrix comprising:
- a) the composition of claim 50 forming a structure for supporting a calcified bone matrix;
   and
- b) the calcified bone matrix secreted by osteoblasts on the structure, wherein the matrix is free of bone cells including osteoblasts.

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